

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY: Cuba/Nicaragua REPORT NO. OO-A 3 178532
 SUBJECT: Report of Phone Tap in Havana/Harold Martinez Now Leading Frente Revolucionaria Sandino from Tegucigalpa, Receiving Mail in Name of Ricardo Gonzales DATE DISTR. 6 Feb 61
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 REFERENCES
 DATE OF INFO. Late Dec 60
 PLACE & DATE ACQ. Late
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION.

SOURCE: US national; former non-commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps.

Source is a 23-year old ex-Marine who spent the period from February 1959 through July 1960 serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. During 1960 source became active in Havana in the Frente Revolucionaria Sandino, a Nicaraguan revolutionary movement led by the Martinez brothers. When source left Cuba he planned to return to Honduras to assist the Nicaraguan rebels.

- About one week ago [late December 1960] I received a long distance phone call from Jimmy Gentry, a friend of mine who also served with Castro's forces in Cuba during and after the Revolution. He stated that he was living at 953 Penn Street, SW, Miami, Florida, Telephone Franklin 4-3265. Gentry said it would be a very good idea for me to call Chester Simpson in Havana. Simpson, a Nicaraguan who spent most of his youth in the US, was working with us in Havana on the Nicaraguan Frente Revolucionaria Sandino prior to my departure in mid-August 1960, and he had remained in Havana. Gentry reported that Simpson could be reached by calling Roberto Hernandez in Havana at 325945 or 323227.
- I immediately placed a long distance call to the first number listed above and talked to a Cuban there. Simpson was not available on either of the two numbers at the time of my call so I requested that the Cuban find Simpson and have him available six hours later, which would be 0300 hours, Havana time. I placed a second call at that time and talked to Simpson. He was very happy to hear from me but he was not at all anxious to converse in any detail. He stated three times before I could understand him that I ought to know the phones were tapped. We then continued our conversation in a roundabout fashion without mentioning names, and very little information was developed.
- I tried to find out from Simpson why Gentry had been so anxious for me to call him, but this was impossible to do using the double talk necessary because of the phone tap. I indicated to Simpson that he should establish contact with Harold Martinez (one of two brothers who head the Frente Revolucionaria Sandino, the other brother is Alejandro), who finally was able to leave Havana in late August 1960 and who now is living in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.
- I asked Simpson if he had any information on William Morgan (without mentioning his name, naturally). Simpson was not able to provide any recent information on this man.

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JERRY P. HENNING, JR., EX-US MARINE WHO SERVED IN CUBAN ARMY AND AIR FORCE,
FEBRUARY 1953 - JUNE 1960

1. A telephone call recently was received by E. Leibacher, Chief of the Los Angeles Field Office, from a man who identified himself as Jerry P. Henning, Jr., of 2423 West Valley Blvd., Alhambra, California. Mr. Henning reported that he was an ex-US Marine who had recently returned to the US from Cuba where he had served some 18 months in the Cuban Army (Paratroop Regiment) and the Cuban Air Force. (See enclosure 1, Biographic Data on subject.)

2. On 11 Oct. 1960 (and subsequently on 12 Oct. and 21 Oct. 1960) Hendrickson of the Los Angeles Office contacted Henning, who related the following. He left high school in the middle of his junior year to join the US Marine Corps (enlisted 19 Apr. 1954, #1,488,247). He reportedly rose to the rank of Sergeant and during the latter portion of his tour (he was discharged on 17 Oct. 1958) he attended Bainbridge Naval Academy Preparatory School. Henning claimed to have been accepted into the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps subsequent to his attendance at Bainbridge and he reportedly was slated to attend the University of Missouri.

3. He changed his mind and decided not to enter the ROTC program because he wanted to engage in Special Forces type activity. He stated that he tried several times to obtain training of this type at Ft. Bragg and Ft. Benning but he was not successful. He then decided to leave the service and served the balance of his tour at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland.

4. Henning returned to California in October 1958 and worked at various odd jobs including heavy labor, as he put it "... to get in shape". He left for Cuba by air via Miami on or about 18 Feb. 1959, arriving in Havana on 19 Feb. 1959. His reasons for going to Cuba are not completely clear in the mind of this writer (nor does the writer believe they are completely clear in Henning's mind), but among the reasons undoubtedly are the following:

a. A strong desire to experience the excitement and glamour of warfare, and particularly guerrilla warfare, and the opportunity to gain experience in this field.

b. The opportunity to combine the above-mentioned desire with identification with a "just" cause.

c. A desire to see for himself what was going on in Cuba, and possibly to carve a niche for himself from which he might be able to influence later developments.

5. At any rate, Henning reportedly bluffed his way into the Cuban Army, with no prior connections having been made in the US. (He claimed to have contacted officials in the Cuban Counsel's office in Los Angeles prior to his departure and also to have talked to a few 26th of July Movement members including a (fau) Tapanza, but received no help there.)

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6. He reported that Capt. Johnny Mitchell, a US national who in February 1959 was serving at Headquarters, General Staff, Camp Colombia, befriended him and obtained a pass for him. He talked to a number of Cuban officers including Maj. (Gen) Castillo and Maj. Camilo Cienfuegos. The latter sent him to Maj. Enrique Forbanet Gomez, a Ft. Penning trained officer (1948 or 1949) who was forming a Paratroop Regiment.

7. Major Forbanet reportedly did not like Penning or want him in his unit, but Henning obtained orders from "Camilo" detailing him to the Paratroop Regiment as an officer. Maj. Forbanet refused to accept him as an officer so he went into the unit as a Sergeant about the end of February 1959. Henning stayed with the unit until December 1959. He helped train paratroopers first at San Antonio de los Baños Air Force Base and later near San Jose de los Lajas, a small town about 33 miles southeast of Havana on the central highway. [See OO-B reports and for FBI gathered from Henning in initial debriefs. Advance copies of additional FBI collected from him will be forwarded, if desired.]

8. In December 1959 Henning transferred to the Cuban Air Force, since the Paratroop Regiment was obviously bogged down in training and had not even completed one jump. He was stationed at San Julian Air Force Base (inactive) where he flew patrols and helped train militia during the day and led some reconnaissance patrols against the anti-revolutionaries at night. He obtained a discharge from the Cuban Air Force in mid-June 1960 (between 10 and 15 June) and finally left Havana about 21 Aug. 1960. He flew to Mexico City and remained there until 30 Aug. 1960 when he entered the US via San Antonio, Texas.

9. While in the Cuban Army, Henning became involved with a number of Nicaraguans who allegedly were interested in mounting an invasion of Nicaragua from Cuba. While the details of this story as related by Henning are somewhat involved, the basic outline is roughly as follows. A Nicaraguan named (Gen) Farfan contacted a number of troopers in the Paratroop Regiment to recruit volunteers for an expedition to Nicaragua. About 15 of Henning's troopers were involved. The expedition turned out to be well infiltrated with anti-Castro personnel and Eastistians and the expedition appeared to have as its aim primarily the acquisition of arms for anti-Castro revolutionaries and also to embarrass Castro by tying him politically to a movement designed to overthrow President Somoza in Nicaragua.

10. The expedition never left Cuba and Farfan's men were captured in Camaguey sometime during September 1959. Henning alleged that this abortive expedition got him interested in Nicaraguan activities in Cuba and he decided to find out more about them both for his own background and to attempt to protect his men in the Paratroop Regiment. He then initiated contact with a number of Nicaraguans, Cubans, Dominicans, etc., who had as their primary aim the overthrow of established governments either in Nicaragua or the Dominican Republic.

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11. Henning mentioned contact with Chester Ligon, who reportedly was located at one time in Washington, D.C. and who was attempting to establish a base to train Nicaraguans in Cuba prior to invading Nicaragua; plus contact with (Cub) Ramirez, a Dominican national who had been involved in the stealing of a Cuban plane which was flown to the Dominican Republic; and Dr. Francisco Priziones, a Nicaraguan exile who had been implicated in the assassination of ex-President Somoza and who had worked closely with Farfan until a break occurred between Priziones and Farfan in December 1959.

12. Henning was arrested by the Cuban G-2 on or about 15 July 1960 along with Priziones and Harold Martinez (whom Henning described as the Number Two man in the Nicaraguan movement located in Honduras). The three men were held for about five days and then released. Priziones, according to Henning, now is located in Venezuela. Harold Martinez had planned to leave Cuba with Henning and to spend some time in Mexico City. Harold Martinez could not leave the country, according to Henning, because the Nicaraguan Communists in Cuba had applied pressure to the Cuban Communists in order to prevent his return to Honduras and/or Nicaragua.

13. Henning also noted that Alejandro Martinez (Harold's brother) was the leader of a revolutionary column (Fronte Revolucionaria Sandino) which recently was captured by elements of the Honduran Army. Alejandro Martinez reportedly is now in prison in Honduras. Henning also referred to two Americans now located in Chicago, Jack Warden and John Solz, who recently were captured in Tegucigalpa when they turned over some wounded Nicaraguan rebels to the Honduran Army.

14. These two Americans were removed from a Honduran prison and returned to the US sometime between mid-June and 1 July 1960, under what were rumored in Cuba to be mysterious circumstances. Rumors in Cuba alleged that either CIA or FBI officials were instrumental in having these two men returned to the US. Henning states that in his opinion they both merely were deported from Honduras. He connected these two Americans with a Nicaraguan in Chicago named Guillermo Rojas who reportedly is awaiting trial in Chicago on charges of recruiting for a foreign government.

15. Henning claims to be standing by in anticipation of a journey to Honduras in connection with the movement headed by the Martinez brothers. He maintains that the Martinez brothers are anti-Communists who believe that neither the Cuban nor the Nicaraguan Communists are to be trusted. Henning claimed that Harold Martinez has close contacts with Cuban counter-espionage officials who have told him that the Counter-Espionage Corps (CEC) regards the other Cuban intelligence agencies (G-2, DIPAR and DISA) as infiltrated by Communists and as enemies of the CEC. Henning reported that both the Martinez brothers and Priziones were very much afraid that any move they precipitated in Nicaragua would merely open the door for the Nicaraguan Communists in Cuba to move in and exploit the chaotic situation to their own benefit.

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16. Henning may have decided to contact CIA because of remarks made by a Sgt. Aldo Ruzic and by Dr. Francisco Frimones. Ruzic, an ex-Batista soldier who was a fugitive from the Castro regime when Henning left Cuba, reportedly said that CIA helped out in Guatemala and that it would be a good thing if they could help out in Cuba. Dr. Frimones stated that Chester Lacayo had been close to right in contacting US Secretary of State Christian Herter in an attempt to elicit support for Lacayo's Nicaraguan revolutionary movement.

17. While it is difficult to assess Henning's true motives for his past activities and possibly still more difficult to ascertain where his true loyalties lie, it does appear that he might be useful either now or in the near future. From conversations to date (three short sessions) it appears that Henning is not so closely allied with his Nicaraguan friends that he would find it impossible to concentrate his attention elsewhere. His interest in Special Forces type activity appears to transcend all other interests, and he probably would not hesitate to return to Cuba if such were thought useful.

18. His rationale in discussing his connection with the Nicaraguan movement (the Martinez brothers) ties in directly with his (and many others') general thesis of intelligence operations connected with revolutionary movements. Henning maintains that the US should utilize a number of Special Forces types who may be able to penetrate certain revolutionary movements at an early stage, attain positions of real influence within the organizations, and subsequently attempt to channel the movement's activities into areas which are most favorable, or at worst least detrimental to US interests. He foresees the inevitable fall of President Somoza in Nicaragua and, furthermore, that this fall will be brought about by the Martinez brothers. He also claims to recognize the dangers of Communist take-over inherent in the overthrow of President Somoza, and he hopes that the US will be quick to prevent such, preferably through the use of people like himself.

19. Henning maintains that he is "first and foremost" an American, and that his true loyalty remains with this country. This may well be true, but it should be noted that his reasoning appears to be based primarily on his respect for the superior ability exhibited by the US military personnel he has served with in the past. He appears to be little influenced by deep beliefs in democratic principles.

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Encl - Bio Data on Subject

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